



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Resources Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Enclosed for your review is the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Lower Yuba River Pilot Gravel Injection Project, Yuba and Nevada Counties, California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the Watershed Hydrology and Geomorphology lab at University of California, Davis, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, is proposing to inject approximately 500 tons of a heterogeneous mix of gravel and cobble (0.25 to 5.0 inches in diameter) directly into the lower Yuba River channel below Englebright Dam. The injection method would use a belt conveyor with a horizontal reach capacity of at least 105 feet.

The purpose of the pilot gravel injection project is to place suitable-sized spawning gravel within the upper Narrows reach to serve as a controlled field experiment in support of a long-term gravel augmentation program for restoring geomorphic processes and aquatic habitat in the lower Yuba River channel below Englebright Dam. Implementation of a long-term program would serve to improve the overall function of the habitat by providing spawning gravel to key areas on the lower Yuba River that have been designated as critical habitat for the Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and the Central Valley steelhead.

This EA examines various alternatives to deliver and inject the gravel, describes the environmental resources in the project area, determines the potential effects of the preferred alternative on those resources, and proposes mitigation measures to reduce any effects to less than significant. This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to provide full disclosure of potential environmental effects. The proposed action would satisfy the Terms and Conditions of the incidental take statement included in the April 27, 2007, Biological Opinion prepared by National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The public review period for the draft EA will end on September 21, 2007. All comments received on the draft EA will be considered and incorporated into the final document, as appropriate. Please send any comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attn: Mr. Mitch Stewart, Environmental Resources Branch, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814. If you have any questions, Mr. Stewart may be reached at (916) 557-6734.

Sincerely,

Francis C. Piccola
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure